

DISCUSSION ACTION

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TO : Department of State

INFO: USCINCSO FOR POLAD, DOD, Amembassies MANAGUA, SAN JOSE, SAN SALVADOR, TEGUCIGALPA

FROM : Amembassy GUATEMALA

DATE: May 11, 1968

SUBJECT: Weekly Internal Security Report: May 2-9, 1968
DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/IR

REF :

REVIEWED BY *Cal* DATE *9 OCT 1981*

PORTIONS DELETED INDICATED

1. The relative calm [REDACTED] was extended yet another week. The only acts of violence reported which appeared to have political motivations were the machine gunning on May 3 of the Chief of Police of Bananera, Department of Izabal, and his bodyguard; the April 28 kidnapping of a man in Rabinal, Department of Baja Verapaz, by an armed band which identified itself as belonging to a rightist subversive group; and the sabotaging of 3 Empresa Electrica power line poles on May 2 which left Palin, Department of Escuintla, without power for 10 hours.

2. Two pending court cases were resolved this week with the result that 2 persons who had been suspected of being guerrillas were set free. In one case, Edwin Saino, who had been arrested March 19 following an explosion in his radio shop (Embassy A-353) was freed when an Army expert testified that the explosion was not due to a bomb. In the second and more important case, the court freed José Antonio ESTRADA Bolanos, who had previously given the police a full tape recorded confession admitting to having set the December 14th fire in the Paqueteria department store and to being a member of the FAR (Guatemala A-335). He later claimed the confessions had been obtained by intimidation and the court ruled that the evidence was insufficient.

3. An important development was another major series of command changes in the military. The more important ones include: Col. Kjell Laugerud from Deputy Chief of Staff to Military, Air and Naval Attaché in Washington Col. Dario Alfonso Castro from Commander of the Quezaltenango Brigade to Commander of the Zacapa Brigade; Col. Otto Guillermo SPIEGLER Noriega* from Executive Officer in Zacapa to Commander of the Quezaltenango Brigade; * (Although he has left Zacapa, his new position has not yet been confirmed.

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